

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1

COUNTRY

East Germany

DATE DIGTR. 28 March 1954

SUBJECT

Readmission of Party Enterprise Groups

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1. At a cabinet meeting, Dr. Lothar Böls requested the readmission of the bourgeois party enterprise groups which had been dissolved in April and May 1953, while those of the SED remained in existence. [redacted] Dr. Lothar Böls was supported by the other bourgeois ministers. 25X1
2. Walter Ulbricht was vehemently opposed to any readmission of enterprise groups of the bloc parties. [redacted] strikes would develop if Ulbricht, who was well aware of this situation, did not give in. 25X1

Comment. The question of the existence of enterprise groups of the bourgeois bloc parties became almost a criterion of whether the line represented by Semenov or that represented by Ulbricht was going to get the upper hand. While Yudin was in office in April and May 1953, the enterprise groups were dissolved in an effort to establish an SED monopoly and a drive was initiated to have non-partisan persons organized by the National Front. Semenov's first attempt to reverse this development failed because of the rebellion on 17 June 1953, after which Ulbricht again got the upper hand. In the late summer of 1953, Ulbricht, at the instigation of Yudin, attempted to continue the previous development as he sought still more to paralyze the bourgeois parties by a ban on recruiting, subordination to the control of the National Front, and similar measures. Now that Semenov's influence has again grown stronger as a result of the present Soviet negotiation offensive, the reestablishment of bourgeois enterprise groups has again been demanded against Ulbricht's vote, which at present appears less important.

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

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